

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated August 20, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 20, 2003. New claims 40-55 have been added herein and claim 32 has been cancelled without prejudice. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

The examiner has restricted the claims as follow:

Restriction of one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1-24, drawn to a method of processing a substrate, classified in class 205, subclass 640+,
- II. Claims 25-39, drawn to an apparatus for processing substrates, classified in class 204, subclass 275.1.

Applicant elects Group I, original claims 1-24, with traverse. New claims 40-48 have been added herein and are directed to the subject matter of Group I. New claims 49-52 have been added to further recite patentable aspects of the invention. It is believed that no new matter has been introduced by these claims. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests entry of these new claims.

In the restriction action, the examiner states that the process as claimed can be practiced by another apparatus, such as one where the cathode is movable and the substrate carrier is immobile. Without addressing the feasibility of relative motion between various components of the system, Applicant has amended claim 25 to remove any reference to relative motion between the components, thereby obviating the restriction requirement. It is believed that the claims as presented herein are properly examined together. Therefore, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.